

## Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-15

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 INRE-00 DRC-01

EB-11 AID-20 AGR-20 /192 W

----- 050877

O R 091036Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3326

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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SECRET

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YWAKHQA/CINCPAC  
CINCPACFLT  
CINCUSARPAC  
DIA WASHDC  
CGFMFPAC  
CGUSARSUPTHAI  
CNO  
COMNAVINTCOM  
COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMUSMACTHAI  
7/13 AF  
7TH PSYOPS  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF  
CINCPACAF

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 10871

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB  
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - OCTOBER 9, 1973

GENERAL

1. KHMER ARE QUIETLY CELEBRATING THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC TODAY AFTER A WEEK WHICH WAS DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE MOBILIZATION OF A NEW NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN BUT ALSO FEATURED CONTINUED BEHIND THE SCENES JOCKEYING AMONG POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING AN ATTEMPT BY IN TAM TO FORMALIZE HIS OFT-THREATENED RESIGNATION. ACTIVITY ON THE MILITARY FRONT WAS HIGH-LIGHTED BY INCREASED ENEMY PRESSURE ON THE SOUTHWEST PERIMETER OF PHNOM PENH AND CONTINUED FANK PROGRESSION

KOMPONG CHAM. THE DELAY OF WATERBORNE RICE SHIPMENTS FROM BANGKOK HAS INCREASED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AIRLIFT FROM BATTALION WHICH IS NOW WELL UNDERWAY.

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POLITICAN (INTERNAL)

2. BEHIND-THE-SCENES EFFORTS TO AVOID A POLITICAL CRISIS RECEIVED A SETBACK THIS WEEK WHEN PRIME MINISTER IN TAM INFORMED THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WISHES TO RESIGN AND THAT HE WANTS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COUNCIL.

THE OTHER 3 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL REFUSED TO AOCE  
L  
EITHER THE RESIG TIOODOR THE WITHDRAWAL AND ARE  
PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE HIM TO REVERSE HIS  
DECISION, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS MEMBERSHIP IN THE HIGH  
POLITICAC  
COUNCIL.

3. THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF ATTENTION THRN  
ERTAEJ

TPFTBJTF RPLU#& /7(86  
DLQT IPR THE NEW NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN, WHICH  
HAS THE BACKING OF LON NOL AND IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MG  
THAPPANA NGINN. ALTHOUGH MARRED BY THE REFUSAL OF CHENG HENG,  
SIRIK MATAK AND IN TAM TO PARTICIPATE PUBLICLY, AN EXTENSIVE PUBLICIT  
Y  
CAMPAIGN INCLUDING A RADIO ADDRESS BY LOMKNOL, NUMEROUS RADIO  
AND TELEVISION APPEALS, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, MUSICAL  
ENTERTAINMENT GROUPS AND LEAFLET DROPS SPREAD THE  
WORD TO THE POPULATION. MEANWHILE LOCAL OFFICIALS WERE  
TASKED WITH UPDATING REGISTRATION LISTS AND SENDING OUT  
CONVOCAION NOTICES WHILE INSPECTION TEAMS TO MONITOR THE  
CONSCRIPTION PROCESS AND REPORT ABUSES ARE BEING ORGANIZED.  
THE CABINET ALSO ASSISTED, IN THE AREA OF INCENTIVES,  
BY VOTING A FREE RICE RATION FOR TROOPS IN THE GENERAL RESERVE.  
COMMENT: THE RESULTS OF THE CONSCRIPTION EFFORTS WILL NOT BE  
CLEAR UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER 10 WHEN DRAFTEES HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO  
BEGIN REPORTING TO THEIR LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS. A MAJORITY OF  
CIVILIAN OFFICIALS CONTACTED DOUBT THAT COMPLETE REGISTRATION  
LISTS CAN BE OBTAINED AND PRDICT THAT ONLY A SMALL  
NUMBER OF THOSE CALLED WILL RESPOND, THUS MAKING A RESORT  
TO COERCIVE MEASURES NECESSARY.

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4. THE RECENTLY CREATED REPUBLICAN POLICE, WHICH IS  
DESIGNED TO BE A UNIFORMED FORCE TO REPLACE THE NATIONAL  
GENDARMERIE IN DUTIES CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH THE CIVILIAN  
POPULATION, HAS NOW RECRUITED OVER 5,000 NEW OFFICERS  
WHO WILL SOON ENTER A 3-MONTH BASIC TRAINING COURSE.  
ALTHOUGH STILL LACKING AN ADEQUATE BUDGET AND OPERATING  
EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS A DIRECTOR, THE NEW POLICE FORCE HAS  
ALREADY MADE ONE ARREST, ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER. IKQ  
IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN FULL OPERATIONS IN EARLY 1974.  
COMMENT: THE REPUBLICAN POLICE WAS CREATED PRINCIPALLY  
AT THE INSISTANCE OF PRIME MINISTER IN TAM, WHO WISHED  
TO REDUCE FANK'S INTERNAL SECURITY ROLE, AND MAY NOT OUT-  
LAST HIS TENURE IN OFFICE.

NOTE BY OC/T: PHNOM PENH 10871 SECTION ONE OF TWO GARBLED.

CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 10871

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

GRUNK/FUNK

5. SIHANOUK RELEASED A STATEMENT OCT 5 AFFIRMING THAT  
FUNK AND GRUNK WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THE LEAST CONTACT WITH  
MR. KISSINGER OR ANY OTHER ENVOY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT..."

6. SIHANOUK'S DAUGHTER BOTUM BOPHA ARRIVED IN PEKING WITH  
HER CHILDREN OCTOBER 1. SHE ACHIEVED NOTORIETY EARLIER  
THIS YEAR WHEN HER LIAISON WITH PRESIDENTIAL PALACE BOMBER  
SO PHOTRA, BY WHOM SHE WAS WITH CHILD, BECAME KNOWN. SHE  
WAS ACQUITTED IN APRIL 1971 AT THE SAME TRIAL THAT FOUND  
HER BROTHER NARADIPO GUILTY OF PASSING INTELLIGENCE TO A  
FOREIGN POWER.

ECONOMIC

7. THE UNITED STATES AND THE KHMER REPUBLIC EXCHANGED  
NOTES OCT 8 ADDING APPROXIMATELY \$5.4 MILLION WORTH OF  
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TO THE PUBLIC LAW 480 AGREEMENT  
SIGNED AUG 13, 1973. THE AMENDMENT ADDS 15,000 M/T OF  
WHEAT, 2,200 BALES OF COTTON AND 1.1 MILLION POUNDS OF  
COTTON YARN. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL  
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COMMODITY AGREEMENT FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TO

\$19.1 MILLION.

8. AS OF OCTOBER 8 THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 7,250 M/T OF RICE IN PHNOM PENH WAREHOUSES. BAD WEATHER IN BANGKOK HAS DELAYED THE LOADING OF SHIPS AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MEAN THAT ADDITIONAL SPECIAL MEKONG CONVOYS WILL HAVE TO BE ARRANGED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PHNOM PENH STOCK LEVELS. MEANWHILE, THE AIRLIFT FROM BATTAMBANG AVERAGED APPROXIMATELY 95 M/T PER DAY DURING THE PAST WEEK.

#### MILITARY

9. AT KOMPONG CHAM FANK CONTINUED TO EXPAND ITS AREA OF CONTROL WEST AND NORTHWEST OF THE CITY AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY RESISTANCE. ON OCTOBER 4 TROOPS FROM THE CITY LINKED UP WITH FORCES AT THE AIRFIELD. TO THE SOUTHEAST, GAINS WERE MADE IN THE KOH PEN AREA ON KOH SOTIN ISLAND. SOME EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT FIGHTING WILL CONTINUE TO BE LIGHT IN THE NEAR TERM AS ENEMY ELEMENTS MAY BE TEMPORARILY DISENGAGING.

10. ROUTES 4 AND 5 REMAINED CLOSED. ALONG ROUTE 5, THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON SALA LEK PRAM AND TUK LAAK IN ITS EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE CUT AREA. ON ROUTE 4, NO SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES WERE MADE AS FANK BEGAN REINFORCING TO CLEAR THE CUT SOUTHWEST OF KG SPEU. SOUTH OF ROUTE 4 THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED VILLAGES OF TRAM KHNAR AND SRANG REMAIN ENCIRCLED AND UNDER PRESSURE BY THE ENEMY. BOTH POSITIONS RECEIVED AIRDROPS DURING THE WEEK.

11. ARMY AND NAVY ELEMENTS HAVE UNDERTAKEN AN OPERATION TO RELIEVE THE ISOLATED VIHEAR SUOR GARRISON NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. THESE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN SLOWED BY THE FLOODED TERRAIN AROUND THE GARRISON.

12. ENEMY ACTIVITY INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY ALONG THE CAPITAL'S SOUTHWESTERN FRONT. ON OCTOBER 3 IN THE KOMPONG KANTUOT AND KOMPONG TUOL AREAS NEAR ROUTE 3 SOUTH OF THE PREK THNAOIT RIVER, FANK WAS DRIVEN FROM ITS POSITIONS BY HEAVY ENEMY MORTAR, ROCKET, AND GROUND ATTACKS. IN  
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RETREATING THE TROOPS WERE FORCED TO SWIM THE RIVER AND REPORTEDLY LOST 26 FRIENDLY KIA, 51 WIA, 30 MIA AND OVER 100 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS.  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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